

of our nation's largest stockpiles of missiles at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

Captain Akers' military decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Following his time in service, Akers relocated to Texas where he operated a successful small business. In 1993, he would embark on a new mission following his election to the Plano City Council where he served as both Deputy Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor. During his time as Mayor, he founded the Collin County Mayors' Alliance and was credited with bringing the Dr Pepper headquarters to town.

In 2002, Captain Akers was diagnosed with a lung disease that would eventually result in a double lung transplant. His unique experience generated a new passion for organ donation advocacy and he remains a staunch supporter for the cause. Akers also served in the role of President and CEO of the Celina Chamber of Commerce until his recent retirement. In his personal life, Jeran is the proud father of three children with whom he has instilled a love of country. His eldest son Tyler followed in his father's footsteps by joining the Air Force, and his younger son, Josh, is a fallen Marine. Today, Jeran, and his wife, Victoria, continue spending time in the community and enjoying their five grandchildren. Captain Akers has been a steadfast example of service before self both to his nation and through his dedication to involvement within our local community.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Captain Akers for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

#### THE COURTS SPORTS COMPLEX

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Courts Sports Complex of Northglenn, Colorado for receiving the City of Northglenn Investment Award.

The Northglenn Investment award is given to a Northglenn business that has made significant investments to improve their business or in the community. This year, the award is being presented to The Courts Sports Complex. This state-of-the-art, multipurpose sports facility is a welcomed addition to the Northglenn community. It hosts thousands of eager spectators and athletes alike each year. The massive 32,000 square foot complex can host basketball, volleyball, and several other sports to create Colorado's next great athletes.

I would like to extend a personal congratulations to the team over at The Courts Sports Complex for receiving this award. They are certainly deserving of all this recognition and more. I would also like to thank them for being such outstanding leaders in the community, and for helping to bring recreation and jobs to Northglenn. I wish The Courts Sports Complex nothing but the best in the future, as they con-

tinue to be a favorite spot for athletes of all ages.

#### HONORING THE WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on October 27, 2021 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on October 27th answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Franklin Adams, Joseph Addante, George Anel, Charles Battaglia, Martin Behn, Margaret Bernal, Willie Berry, James Frederick Bolender, Charles Balwin, Steven Bravo, Roger R. Brinker, Robert Brown, Frank S. Buday, Jimmy D. Cagle, Ramon N. Calderon, Andrew P. Chengary, Terrance L. Chenore, Daniel Ciszek, Glenn Allen Clausel, Jacques William Coakley, James Conaway, Wade Cooper Jr., Joseph Corrigan, Kenneth E. Cramer, Randall Cromwell, Charles F. Cusumano, Marco Dabatic, James Daly, Clement J. Davis, Irving Frank Dewald, Frank Dudek, Sel W. Dunlap Jr., William C. Ouray, John Francis Dwyer Jr., Ansel Howard Eddin, Robert L. Falkenberg, Gordon S. Farrant, Raymond Franco, Raymond Lee Frerichs, Howard A. Fry, David Grauer, Theodore P. Gray, William D. Greenwald, Robert J. Grega, Melvin Hampton, Brent L. Harris, Ralph O. Heatherington, Gerald A. Holcomb, John R. Horner, Richard Kalamir, Ronald Kamykowski, Thomas J. Kelly, Alex Koplinski, Robert Kosciak, Frank Kusbel, Herbert Landy, Jon Lapo, Ronald E. Lefman, David Lindberg, Louis Mack, Michael John Mahoney, William E. Martin, Joseph Mata Jr., Fred V. McClintock, Richard J. Melford, William A. Meloy, Lucian M. Michichic, Joseph F. Milcarek, Francis Raymond Misischia, Norman Moret, Neal E. Morgan, Gary A. Nielsen, Nicholas L. Pappalas, Louis J. Pauly, Juan Peña, Robert G. Peterson, William Francis Pietrowicz, Thaddeus J. Piwowar, Joseph L. Raftery Jr., Robert Reczek, Robert Reger, Joseph Michael Rogers, Steven D. Rogers, Bernard Rosenblum, Robert Wayne Roswold, Harry Sandberg, Robert Sansone, Joseph M. Shone, John Sintich, Michael Siorek, Marvin D. Skidmore, Richard Smerz, Dennis J. Sroka,

Robert Elliott Sussman, Ken Swierczek, Gerald M. Taylor, Thomas Testolin, Daniel Jerome Tomasik, Joseph Vazzana, George Venetis, Roy Joseph Veverka, Terrence Raymond Verderer, Bernard Lee Walat, William Wall, Lawrence Waska, James W. Weinstein, Larry D. Welsh, Edward F. Wicherek, Paul Wilczenski, Johnny L. Williams, DeNorris Williams, William W. Wilson, Gerald M. Wilstein, Thomas Wysocki, Richard E. Zabelski, Thomas S. Zaczekiewicz, Thomas Anthony Zeman, and John Zero.

#### HONORING RABBI NEIL BRIEF

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Rabbi Neil Brief's service to Ezra Hahonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation and the Skokie, Illinois community. In 1971 Rabbi Brief became the Rabbi for the Congregation, and he became Rabbi Emeritus in 2004.

Rabbi Brief overcame poverty as a child and developed his leadership skills by becoming president of the Brooklyn Brownsville Boys Club and coaching two club championship basketball teams.

He attended New York University and distinguished himself at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion through his study of numerology, which he later adapted to meet the needs of his congregants. He worked throughout his higher education, as a waiter, busboy, camp counselor and teaching religious school. He then served his country as an Army Chaplain, counseling soldiers of all faiths and rising to the rank of Captain within two years.

Rabbi Brief helped bring people together. He brought Skokie's clergy closer together through spearheading the creation of and serving as president of the Niles Township Clergy Forum. And he helped strengthen his congregants' marriages through his leadership in Jewish Marriage encounter.

Rabbi Brief helped lead and serve his community through his work with the Skokie Commission on Family Services, the Rotary Club, the United Way of Skokie Valley and many other service organizations.

He has always stood by those who were oppressed and through his congregational, interfaith, political and humanist work, helped create Skokie spirit and become a true leader in the community. He helped organize rallies drawing thousands of people to protest prejudice in the community.

Rabbi Brief trained as a Reform rabbi and is a member of the rabbinical organizations of Judaism's Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist.

Rabbi Brief and his beloved late wife Erica, raised three children in Skokie—Dena, David, and Debra—all of whom graduated from Niles North High School. They were married for 57 years.

On this momentous occasion, I wish to congratulate Rabbi Neil Briefs 50 years of service to Ezra Hahonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation and the Skokie, Illinois community. He has been a treasured friend to me and my family, and an inspiring leader in our community.

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST MATT FOSTER, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation: Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Specialist Matt Foster of Allen, Texas.

Born into a military family, Matt Foster, moved around his first five years of life prior to settling down in New Braunfels, Texas. Like many Americans, Matt answered the call to serve our nation following the horrific attacks of 9/11. Upon graduation from high school, Matt enlisted in the United States Army leading to his deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Foster served as a squad leader in the 101st Airborne Division, leading team members in over 180 missions and combat patrols.

Among Specialist Foster's awards are the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Specialist Foster earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he was later recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the Year. Public policy and government are passion points for Foster, and he uses his experiences to serve in the role of Regional Director of Legislative and External Affairs for A&T.

Matt has chosen to give back to his community in a multitude of ways including through his work as the Past Chairman of the DFW USO Advisory Board, as Vice Chairman of the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veteran Assistance Advisory Board, Past Public Information Officer of Team Rubicon-DFW, Co-Chairman of the North Texas Crime Commission Legislative Committee, Director of the Collin College Foundation, the YMCA Board of Directors in Plano, and as Past Chairman of the Plano Young Professionals. In addition to his many civic activities, Matt serves as the Director of Communications for the Warrior's Keep, a non-profit organization geared towards enhancing the quality of life for veterans through the use of outdoor therapy as they reintegrate back to civilian life.

Matt and his wife, Vanessa, are raising their young son, Jackson, in Allen, Texas. For his many efforts to support our defenders of free-

dom, Specialist Foster has earned the respect and admiration of our community as he now works to mentor a new generation of military leaders.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Specialist Foster for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

SCL HEALTH AND HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the SCL Health Heart and Vascular Institute at Northglenn for receiving the Northglenn Mid-Size Business of the Year Award.

The Northglenn Mid-Sized Business of the Year Award is given to a mid-sized business that has made outstanding contributions for the betterment of the community. This year, the award goes to the SCL Health and Heart and Vascular Institute at Northglenn. This SCL Institute is a leader in cardiovascular health treatment and is committed to wide accessibility to medical treatment on the front range. The SCL Institute at Northglenn combines kindness, compassion, excellent medical care, and state-of-the-art technology to help community members enter upcoming stages of their lives.

I personally thank the SCL Health and Heart and Vascular Institute at Northglenn for its dedication to providing outstanding care. I am eager to see this Institute continue delivering top-of-the-line care to our community.

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY IS AN OASIS OF LEARNING, KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, AND KNOWHOW

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, a hundred years ago, two independent library associations merged into one amazing library—the Middletown Township Public Library.

Congratulations to Library Director Heather Andolsen and Board President Bill Bucco—and library staff and board members past and present—for this remarkable achievement.

A hundred years ago: Warren Harding was in the White House; New Jerseyans Joseph Frelinghuysen and Walter Evans Edge were in the U.S. Senate; Theodore Appleby was Monmouth County's Member of Congress; and the Freeholder Director was Bryant Newcomb.

America and the world in 1921 were still reeling and recovering from WWI and from the 1918 H1N1 Flu Pandemic that infected a third of the world's population and killed 50 million people.

That same year—1921—my favorite baseball team bought land to build Yankee Stadium (I was there in the stands in 1969 for Mickey Mantle Day); the treatment of diabetes was significantly advanced with the isolation of insulin and Albert Einstein got the Nobel Prize for Physics for his many contributions to theoretical physics including his 1905 theory of relativity.

And it was Albert Einstein who famously said “the only thing you absolutely need to know is the location of the library” which in the early years of MTPL perhaps begged the question, where is Dorothy Norton and her Ford Model T library on wheels?

Today, the Library is an important cultural and meeting center and a venue for assistance when disasters hit like Superstorm Sandy.

MTPL is an oasis of learning, knowledge, wisdom, and knowhow.

As food nurtures the body, the availability and accessibility of books and other literary works feeds the mind and soul.

A few weeks ago, I introduced an anti-human trafficking bill named after the great abolitionist, author, orator, and former slave Frederick Douglass.

I was joined at the press conference by Frederick Douglass' great, great, great grandson Ken Morris, who quoted his famous ancestor who said, “knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave” and “Once you learn to read you will be forever free.”

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize State Theatre New Jersey on its 100th anniversary and join its leadership, staff, and Board of Trustees in celebrating its reopening ribbon cutting and marquee lighting.

Opened in 1921 by Walter Reade, State Theatre New Jersey, then known as Reade's State Theatre, continues to bring exceptional arts-programming, culture, and vitality to the greater New Brunswick community. State Theatre New Jersey is a premier regional venue, providing an outstanding educational and entertainment resource for Central Jersey and beyond, attracting visitors as far as Canada and England. Its efforts to introduce the theatrical arts to the general public, including underserved populations, enriches the lives of the diverse local community and provides a valuable impact on cultural and economic landscape of the area.

Begun as a silent film and vaudeville theater, the theater was a popular entertainment destination for residents of central New Jersey throughout the 1920s. As films with sound evolved, Radio-Keith-Orpheum (RKO) took over operation of the facility and transformed the theater to accommodate and enhance the movie experience, including soundproofing and measures to darken the interior. For about 30 years, RKO State Theatre remained well-attended by residents until many began migrating into the suburbs and television became